

***County Commissioners***

***Veronica M. Serna***  
*Commission Chair*

***Johnny Trujillo***  
*Commission Vice-Chair*

***Frank L. Maestas***  
*Member*



***Michael A. Rivera***  
*County Manager*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-001**

**RESOLUTION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS  
BETWEEN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING MORA COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, drug addiction is a disease that has devastated communities statewide, including those in Mora County, placed a strain on the healthcare and criminal justice systems, and endangered the lives and futures of young people; and,

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared a national epidemic due to the continued growth in the number of opioid overdose deaths; and,

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico's Department of Health recognizes that opioid overdose continues to be an urgent public health challenge. In 2019, 74% of overdose deaths in our state involved opioids; and,

**WHEREAS**, public health advocates recognize that opioid overdose death is preventable; and,

**WHEREAS**, the National Safety Council recognizes that public education, treatment and prevention measures work and are needed to combat the opioid epidemic; and,

**WHEREAS**, opioid use disorder is a recognized chronic disease that requires robust and readily available treatment programs; and,

**WHEREAS**, local governments throughout the State of New Mexico, including Mora County, are responsible for providing those who suffer from opioid use disorder with services through emergency medical care, law enforcement and resources at area detention centers; and,

**WHEREAS**, individual financial resources are insufficient, and in many instances non-existent, to stem the epidemic; and

**WHEREAS**, addressing the opioid crisis in New Mexico, and Mora County in particular, will require a unified and concerted effort by stakeholders statewide and must include locally based solutions; and,

**WHEREAS**, local governments, including Mora County, can more effectively address the epidemic through existing and new programs, but significant financial resources are needed in order to create sustainable and lasting change; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mora County, the first New Mexico governmental entity to seek damages against the manufacturers and distributors of opioid painkillers, is a litigant in opioid litigation involving various parties who bear responsibility for the opioid epidemic; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mora County wants to ensure that the interests of its residents are properly protected in connection with resolution of the opioid litigation to obtain the best financial outcome to support and institute prevention and treatment programs to prevent opioid deaths and support those individuals suffering from opioid addiction.


**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mora County Board of Commissioners proclaims that the opioid overdose epidemic in Mora County continues to be a public health and safety crisis which demands immediate solutions guided by public health principles which are culturally sensitive and locally based;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mora County Board of Commissioners seeks to obtain the best possible outcomes from the resolution of existing claims against parties responsible for the opioid epidemic. As a participating local government in the on-going opioid litigation, Mora County strongly encourages the New Mexico Attorney General's Office and other elected public officials to support an allocation as follows: 60% to local governmental entities and 40% to the State of New Mexico.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mora County Board of Commissioners seeks a fair and equitable distribution of settlement proceeds among the local governmental entities in the State of New Mexico. To develop and re-envision solutions needed to address the opioid epidemic, rural local governmental entities, such as Mora County, need significant financial resources to develop and sustain locally based abatement, prevention and treatment programs which directly combat the root causes of addiction.

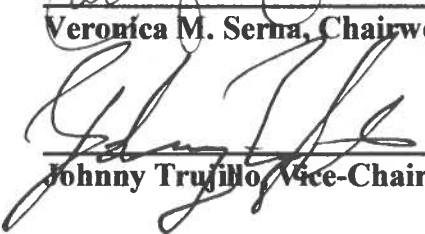
**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners on this 24 day of January 2022.

**MORA COUNTY COMMISSION:**



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Veronica M. Serna, Chairwoman



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Johnny Trujillo, Vice-Chair

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**L. Frank Maestas, Member**

**SEAL**  
**ATTESTED BY:**

  
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**Carlos J. Arellano**  
**County Clerk**

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